

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9123

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

US MISSION USUN 395

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 5181

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, XA

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS--OAU SUMMIT

REF: ABIDJAN 5167 (NOTAL)

1. IN JUNE 26 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER USHER, MAINLY TO DISCUSS 6TH SPECIAL SESSION UNGA, I ALSO RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING RECENT OAU SUMMIT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO HOW SESSION HAD GONE, USHER SAID IT HAD BEEN FAIRLY ROUTINE. ONLY TOUGH ISSUE WAS SELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU. I ASKED WHY EKANGAKI HAD RESIGNED, AND HE SAID IT WAS FOR "PERSONAL REASONS" INCLUDING HIS NOT HAVING GOTTEN ON WELL WITH ONE OR MORE OF HIS DEPUTIES. HE WOULD NOT ELUCIDATE ON THIS POINT.

3. I ASKED HOW THE DEBATES ON PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES HAD GONE. HE SAID CRITICAL QUESTION WHICH REMAINS IS THAT OF WHITE PORTUGUESE IN
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TERRITORIES. IF THEY ARE WILLING TO BE ASSIMILATED IN INDEPENDENT BLACK MAJORITY COUNTRIES, THERE SHOULD BE NO MAJOR PROBLEM. HE

HAD TALKED PERSONALLY TO LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS, WHO WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHITE PORTUGUESE AS FULL-FLEDGED CITIZENS. HE NOTED THAT IVORY COAST HAD OFFERED CITIZENSHIP TO FRENCH AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE BUT, DUE TO COLONIAL PRIDE, VERY FEW TOOK UP OFFER. HE THOUGHT THAT SITUATION OF ASSIMILATION ALREADY EXISTED. IF IT SUCCEEDED, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD OBJECT LESSON TO RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND REDUCE FEAR AMONG WHITES IN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES THAT BLACK MAJORITY WOULD KICK THEM OUT. AS HE HAS BEFORE, HE AGAIN URGED U.S. TO PUSH ITS PORTUGUESE ALLIES TO GRANT FULL INDEPENDENCE TO THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. HE SAID THERE NO LONGER ANY MID-WAY POSITION. I CITED PRESIDENT NIXON'S SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN HIS RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DE SPINOSA.

4. I ASKED WHETHER QUESTION OF RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL HAD ARISEN AT OAU SUMMIT. HE SAID THIS WAS VERY DELICATE POLITICAL QUESTION AND IT WAS TOO SOON FOR IT TO HAVE COME UP. HE LAUGHED AND SAID THAT ONLY COUNTRY TODAY THAT WAS GOOD FRIENDS WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES WAS U.S. SOME ARAB DELEGATES AT MOGADISCIO HAD ATTEMPTED TO PUT THROUGH RESOLUTION CRITICIZING U.S. ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST. USHER SAID HE HAD MADE STRONG SPEECH THAT THIS WAS A RIDICULOUS PROPOSAL, PARTICULARLY AT VERY MOMENT PRESIDENT NIXON WARMLY ACCLAIMED IN EGYPT. PROPOSAL WAS DROPPED.

4. COMMENTS: USHER CONTINUES TO APPEAR TO BE A MODERATE IN IVORY COAST FOREIGN POLICY, BUT AT SAME TIME IS STANDING WITH THE AFRICAN MAJORITY IN HAVING HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT USG CAN DO, BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, IN AFRICA.
SMITH

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